

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 031819Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9529

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. ACCORDING TO THE MARCH 3 GUARDIAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TOLD LABOR MP'S THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED IN BRITAIN THIS CENTURY (SIC).

2. CALLAGHAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "FEARS ARE RAISED THAT WE SHALL DEPART FROM OUR EXISTING VOTING SYSTEM IN FUTURE ELECTIONS IN FAVOUR OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OR SOME SIMILAR SYSTEM. I EMPHASISE THAT THAT IS A MATTER FOR US. NO ONE CAN REQUIRE US TO DO SO - ANY PROPOSED CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT WHEN YOU RECALL THAT IT

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HAS TAKEN 20 YEARS FOR THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS TO GET AS FAR
AS THIS, AND THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT NEEDED, I DON'T BELIEVE
ANYONE WILL WANT TO MAKE FURTHER CHANGES FOR THE REST OF
THIS CENTURY."

3. COMMENT. CALLAGHAN, NO VISIONARY, FLIES HIS COLORS.
THE LIBERALS WILL WAIL FOR NAUGHT.

SPIERS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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